

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 401

Washington, D. C.

April 25, 1931

LETTER SHOULD NOW REACH MEMBERS PROMPTLY

Starting this week's issue the Information Letter will be mailed under first-class postage, which should insure that it will reach the membership promptly. There have been numerous complaints with regard to delay in the arrival of the Letter, and it is believed the advantage of having prompt delivery justifies the additional cost entailed in changing to first-class postage.

Members of the Association are requested to advise the headquarters office should there be any delay in the receipt of the Letters under the new system.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS

BEETS.—The production forecast for the second early group of states this year is 13 per cent smaller than the estimated production in 1930.

CARROTS.—The acreage estimated for the second early group of states is one-fifth greater than the 1930 acreage, and the crop this year is expected to be about one-fourth larger than in 1930.

CUCUMBERS.—The estimated acreage, planted or intended, in the five groups of states reported to date this season is 11 per cent below last season's acreage. The acreage in each group, however, is well above the average acreage for the previous five years, 1925 to 1929.

TOMATOES.—As compared with the average acreage for the years 1925 to 1929, there are indicated increases of 9 per cent in the early and 37 per cent in the second early states.

TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Grapefruit movement from Florida decreased to 720 cars during the week ended April 18, but was still six times heavier than last April, according to the U. S. Market News Service. California and Arizona each shipped 25 cars of grapefruit. California orange movement increased to 1,315 and Florida to 740 cars, making the total 50 per cent greater than a year ago.

Mixed-citrus shipments had dropped to 260 cars, chiefly from Florida.

Green peas from California totaled almost 270 cars. Virginia shipped 225 cars of spinach.

Mexico continued as the principal source of tomato supplies, with 330 cars last week. Cuba shipped 10 carloads to the United States. Florida output decreased to 90 cars, compared with 335 last spring.

As the movement of California asparagus decreased further to 205 cars, total shipments for the week were only 360 cars. South Carolina had increased greatly to 110 cars, and Georgia originated 30. Washington forwarded a few carloads last week, and first cars of this product were reported from North Carolina.

Combined forwardings of 26 fruits and vegetables decreased to 14,855 cars, compared with 13,935 during the same week last spring.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	April 12-18, 1931	April 5-11, 1931	April 13-19, 1930	Total this season to April 18	Total last season to April 19	Total last season
Apples, total.....	621	605	719	105,471	90,082	102,801
Eastern states.....	135	152	255	42,376	50,202	51,439
Western states.....	486	513	464	63,095	48,880	51,362
Asparagus.....	362	415	297	2,460	1,870	2,789
Beans, snap and lima.....	230	158	200	3,018	3,351	9,557
Beets.....	96	74	...	1,003
Cabbage:						
1931 season.....	800	674	807	11,029	8,284	38,129
1930 season.....	17	33	...	38,129	44,201	44,201
Carrots:						
1931 season.....	218	229	298	5,723	6,446	12,015
1930 season.....	40	41	25	12,015	11,978	12,149
Cauliflower.....	144	166	213	9,122	9,274	9,535
Cucumbers.....	24	11	63	98	233	7,043
Pears.....	35	42	48	28,595	21,050	21,147
Peas, green.....	289	250	220	2,337	1,546	6,800
Peppers:						
Domestic.....	42	38	69	1,377	784	2,794
Imports.....	15	23	14	315	424	477
Spinach.....	267	342	424	8,324	8,407	9,638
Strawberries.....	817	253	801	2,723	2,923	10,068
Tomatoes:						
Domestic.....	90	147	337	2,268	3,127	33,491
Imports.....	339	330	209	4,942	6,226	6,850
Vegetables, mixed:						
Domestic.....	921	764	813	11,038	11,484	31,035
Imports.....	8	13	11	251	305	359

A POSSIBLE BY-PRODUCT FROM APPLE PUNICOMACE

Results obtained in a study of the wax coating on apple skins are given in an article by Dr. Charles E. Sando of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, appearing in a recent number of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. One of the chief constituents of this wax is a substance called "ursolic acid," which can

be recovered from apple ^{pomace} ~~pumice~~ resulting from the manufacture of cider, jellies and pectin.

The research laboratory of the American Paint and Varnish Manufacturers Association has examined samples of ursolic acid and has reported to the members of that Association that ursolic acid appears to have characteristics that are valuable in the manufacture of certain types of varnish. The laboratory just mentioned has suggested to manufacturers of varnish that they investigate this matter further.

If a commercial use is found for ursolic acid which will warrant its manufacture, it is said that something like a half million pounds per year of ursolic acid can be manufactured from the apple ^{pomace} ~~pumice~~ of the canning and preserving industries.

WORLD STOCKS OF DRY BEANS ARE LARGE

The dry bean industry in the United States is confronted with a probability of the largest carryover in the last three years, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The carryover in Japan and Rumania, important exporting countries whose beans compete with those in the United States, promises to be larger than in the past two years, unless domestic consumption in those countries should increase.

Reports on production of common beans in 25 countries bring the total crop reported to date for 1930 up to 55,677,000 bushels compared with 54,101,000 bushels in 1929.

Farmers in the United States have reported intentions this year to reduce the bean acreage 1.5 per cent of the 1930 harvested area, but average yields on the intended acreage this year would produce a crop of 24,000,000 bushels or about 2,000,000 bushels more than in 1930. Reductions are indicated for Michigan and New York, where pea beans are important, for the pinto region, and for blackeyes in California. Increases are indicated for the great northern region and for baby limas in California.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES IN MARCH

The index number of wholesale prices computed by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a further recession in March, declining from 75.5 in February to 74.5 in March, a decrease of a little over $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. This compares with a decrease of 2 per cent between January and February. Foods were one-half of 1 per cent lower than in the preceding month, with declines in most fresh and cured meats, fish, flour, canned fruits and vegetables, cheese, coffee, and sugar. Among foods

increasing in price were butter, fresh pork, dressed poultry, lard, and corn meal.

Retail food prices in the United States, as reported to the Bureau, showed a decrease of about one-half of 1 per cent on March 15, 1931, when compared with February 15, 1931, and a decrease of a little less than 16 per cent since March 15, 1930. Prices of pork and beans, canned peas and canned tomatoes declined 3 per cent; canned corn and evaporated milk, 1 per cent; canned red salmon, less than one-half of 1 per cent.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Weekly business indicators available to the Department of Commerce for the week ending April 18, show that bank debits outside New York City increased from the preceding week but were lower than the same week in 1930. Total loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks showed a fractional increase from the previous week, but were considerably lower than the corresponding week a year ago.

Interest rates on call money declined from the week previous, and were materially under the 1930 level. Time money rates increased during the week, but were far below the rates prevalent during the corresponding week last year. Average prices of representative stocks continued the decline which started during the closing week of March, reaching the lowest point so far this year, with the exception of the first week in January.

Business failures, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., increased slightly over the previous week, and were above the level of a year ago.

Wholesale prices, as measured by Fisher's composite index of 120 commodities, continued the decline which has been under way since the third week in March, reaching the lowest point so far recorded this year.

	CAR LOADINGS		Merchandise	
	Total	Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Week ended April 11	737,034	294,315	223,635	219,984
Preceding week	728,511	284,032	225,463	219,016
Corresponding week, 1930	911,316	383,859	252,631	274,832
Corresponding week, 1929	973,152	414,445	296,955	291,752

WEATHER CONDITIONS

For the week ended April 21, temperatures were abnormally high over north-central sections, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau. It was also unusually warm over the central valleys of California. Rather cool weather for the season prevailed in most parts of the far Northwest, in the immediate

Southwest, and locally in Florida. In Rocky Mountain districts and adjacent areas the lowest temperatures for the week were from about 8 to 15 degrees below freezing.

The cold wave that overspread the Great Plains and much of the West at the close of the week brought freezing temperatures to northern Texas, but there was no apparent harm to staple crops. In the Pacific Northwest, however, frost caused much injury to soft fruits, and considerable damage to apples and pears in some districts. The continued dry, windy weather in California was detrimental to grains and ranges, with irrigation being used wherever practicable to save crops.

Rainfall was moderate to heavy over a rather wide area, extending from the western Lake region southwestward to Oklahoma. In the more eastern states precipitation was rather light, especially in the Northeast, but in the Florida Peninsula some heavy local falls were reported. West of the Rocky Mountains there was light or only inappreciable rainfall, except in the extreme Northwest and locally in the southern mountain section.

General moderate to heavy rains over the central trans-Mississippi area were very timely and largely favorable. Warm weather, in addition to the increased moisture, made extremely good growing conditions, with general advance excellent, and farm work made good progress during the week. The western Ohio Valley benefited from the rains, although more moisture is needed in the eastern part, especially for the subsoil.

STANDARDS FOR RED SOUR CHERRIES

United States standards for red sour cherries for manufacture were announced by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on April 22 as follows:

GRADES

U. S. No. 1 shall consist of cherries which are fairly well colored, free from decay, stems, and worms, and from damage caused by pulled pits, hail, bird pecks, sunscald, shriveling, windwhips, limbrubs, scars, foreign material, disease, mechanical or other means. Unless otherwise specified, each cherry shall have a diameter of not less than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 5 per cent, by count, of the cherries in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

U. S. No. 2 shall consist of cherries which meet all the requirements of *U. S. No. 1* grade except that a tolerance of 10 per cent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be permitted for grade defects but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

U. S. No. 3 shall consist of cherries which meet all the requirements

of U. S. No. 1 grade except that a tolerance of 15 per cent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be permitted for grade defects but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

U. S. No. 4 shall consist of cherries which meet all the requirements of U. S. No. 1 grade except that a tolerance of 20 per cent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be permitted for grade defects but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

Unclassified shall consist of cherries which do not meet the requirements of any of the foregoing grades.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

As used in these grades:

"Fairly well colored" means that the cherry may be light red to dark red in color, but shall not be of whitish-pink color.

"Damage" means any injury which materially affects the appearance or edible quality of the cherry. Light colored scars or scars which do not materially discolor the flesh beneath the skin shall not be considered as damaged. Cherries from which the pits have been removed in the process of harvesting shall be regarded as damaged.

"Diameter" means the greatest dimension, measured through the center of the cherry at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the blossom end.

POULTRY USED FOR CANNING

The quantity of poultry canned or used for canning by 33 firms reporting in March, 1931, was 1,896,918 pounds as compared with 2,209,936 pounds reported by 29 firms during March a year ago. These 33 firms used 550,468 pounds more in March than in February. The U. S. Market News Service reports the quantity as follows, the figures for drawn poultry having been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing:

	March, 1931	February, 1931	March, 1930
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Dressed poultry, canned or used in canning . . .	1,750,499	1,212,557	1,893,630
Drawn poultry, canned or used in canning . . .	146,419	133,893	316,306
Total	1,896,918	1,346,450	2,209,936
Number of firms reporting	33	33	29

TIN RESTRICTION LEGISLATION PASSED

The Federated Malay States have passed legislation for the enforcement in that country of the two-year international scheme for restrictions of tin production and exports, according to a cablegram from the American trade commissioner at Singapore.

Restriction has been provisionally in effect from March 1 by agreement of a majority of the producers of the four leading tin producing countries—the Federated Malay States, the Netherlands East Indies, Bolivia and Nigeria.

On March 18 the Governor General of the Netherlands East Indies announced the participation of that colony in the tin restriction plan beginning March 1.

It is understood that no legislation enforcing tin restriction has yet been enacted by the governments of Bolivia and Nigeria whose representatives participated in drawing up the agreement. The Bolivian Government had previously stated that it would support any international agreement on the subject that might be reached by its delegates.

SALES THROUGH INDEPENDENTS AND CHAINS

The percentage of sales through independent and chain stores in 485 cities for which returns have been published by the Census Bureau has been calculated by the Domestic Commerce Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The calculations are summarized in the following table:

Cities and population	Total sales	Proportion of sales by—			
		Single-store independents	Local multi-units	tional and national chains	Others
		Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1 Million and over (2).....	\$3,117,676,415	50.12	29.17	19.02	1.69
250,000 to 1,000,000 (15)...	4,002,587,971	59.44	19.72	19.11	1.73
100,000 to 250,000 (38).....	1,907,451,211	60.79	15.93	16.73	0.55
50,000 to 100,000 (47).....	1,708,635,704	66.14	17.08	16.22	0.61
30,000 to 50,000 (64).....	1,439,578,348	68.51	16.21	14.76	0.52
10,000 to 30,000 (319).....	2,030,378,538	71.90	14.00	13.16	0.85
Total, cities of less than 1,000,000 (483).....	11,988,631,832	65.72	16.91	16.34	1.03
Total, all cities (485).....	15,106,308,247	62.50	19.44	16.90	1.16

LABOR CONDITIONS IN HAWAII

Labor conditions in Hawaii in 1929-1930 are the subject of a report published as Bulletin No. 534 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and summarized in the April issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*. A special section is devoted to the pineapple industry, both the growing and canning, which in number of wage earners, wages paid, and value of products is surpassed by only the sugar industry. Data are furnished on hours and earnings, wage payment systems, fluctuations in employment and earnings, length of service, race and sex of employees, etc.

COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP SALES AGENCY PLANS

The organization committee for the proposed cooperative sales agency to merchandise miscellaneous fruits and vegetables, at its meeting in Washington, D. C., agreed upon the type of organization to be set up. A subcommittee was elected to develop the details in cooperation with the Federal Farm Board. This

